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Michael Pereira named new Palmetto Tennis Center professional

SUMTER, SC – The City of Sumter is pleased to announce the addition of Michael Pereira to the professional staff at the Palmetto Tennis Center.

Pereira brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in the game of tennis to the Palmetto Tennis Center. As a member of the United States Professional Tennis Association, Pereira is always looking for the best techniques to teach the game.

As the Palmetto Tennis Center's Youth Professional, Pereira will be charged with implementing the Performance Training Center techniques and enhancing the development for teaching the youth of the community.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to teach young players the game of tennis at such a class facility as the Palmetto Tennis Center," said Pereira, a Fayetteville, N.C., native. "As a member of the USPTA, I hope to use those techniques as well as some of my own to ensure the best possible teaching methods for each player. No two players are alike, but I will do everything I can to relate to each young player we have at the Palmetto Tennis Center."

Pereira played his collegiate tennis at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and led the Seahawks to their first two Colonial Athletic Association Championships and two bids into the Division I NCAA Men's Tennis Championships. Pereira, who is fourth on the UNCW all-time career singles wins list, earned All-CAA honors all four years he played at UNCW. Three of those four years he earned First Team All-CAA in Singles and played in the top two singles positions.

After college, Pereira took his game down to Argentina and Peru for the professional futures tour. His experience on the red clay increased his understanding of the game even more.

In his brief coaching career, Pereira has already coached two players that earned NCAA Division I scholarships. Ashleigh Antal went 9-2 in her first fall season at Vanderbilt University and William Kent has received a scholarship offer from UNC Greensboro.

Pereira enjoyed multiple successes himself as a junior in the USTA sanctioned tournaments – winning multiple titles, including the Bullfrog Southern Level 2 National Level 4 in the boys' 16-and-under

division. He was ranked as high as second in North Carolina and ninth in the Southern Division. He was ranked in the top 100 at every age division.



Photo by Susan Wild

Michael Pereira, right, runs a drill for some kids on Tuesday at the Palmetto Tennis Center.